

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. Cancelled.
2. (Currently amended) A cutting machine according to claim 1 characterised in ~~that 3 wherein~~ the cutting knives (16, 18) are grouped into at least two separate functional sets of the cutting knives, linked with the corresponding knife extension arrangements (10, 10a) by means of ~~two a respective~~ driving ~~chains (6, 6a)~~ chain placed on ~~both sides each side~~ of the cutterhead drum, the ~~successive~~ cutting knives (16, 18) in ~~these two~~ each of said functional sets being arranged alternately to each other along the perimeter surface of the cutterhead above the corresponding knife extension arrangement (10, 10a), and, ~~moreover wherein~~ each separate functional cutting ~~knives~~ knife set (16, 18) comprise $2^{|n|}$ single cutting knives (16, 18) where $|n|$ ~~denotes the absolute value of~~ is an integer number.
3. (New) A cutting machine comprising:
 - a drum on a rotatable drive shaft to be driven by a motor;
 - a plurality of cutting blades spaced around the perimeter of said drum;
 - a knife extension apparatus for extending and retracting each of said plurality of knives relative to the periphery of said drum.
4. (New) A cutting machine as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a motor separate from the motor that rotates the drum for driving said knife extension apparatus.
5. (New) A cutting machine as claimed in claim 3 wherein said knife extension apparatus for each blade comprises a drive chain which at each end of each said blade,
 - a motor on said drive at each of opposite sides of said drive shaft that drives a corresponding worm gear;
 - a drive claim at each end of said plurality of blades lopped over said drive chain which at the corresponding end of said plurality of knife blades;

drive coupling apparatus between said worm gear associated with each said motor and a corresponding drive chain to rotate the corresponding drive chain in opposite directions to extend and retract each said knife.

6. (New) A cutting machine as claimed in claim 5 wherein said drive coupling apparatus comprises a shaft having a gear at one end that meshes with a corresponding motor worm gear and a gear at the other end that engages the corresponding drive chain.

7. (New) A cutting machine as claimed in claim 5 wherein said drive shaft has a hollow part on opposite outer sides of said drum; and

a stub drive shaft for each said motor extending within a said hollow part of said drive shaft, each said stub shaft having one end driven by a corresponding drive motor and a gear at the other end to mesh with the corresponding worm gear.